

REMARKS

The Official Action mailed March 29, 2006, has been received and its contents carefully noted. This response is filed within three months of the mailing date of the Official Action and therefore is believed to be timely without extension of time. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that this response is being timely filed.

The Applicant notes with appreciation the consideration of the Information Disclosure Statements filed on August 11, 2004; and April 28, 2005.

Claims 31, 32, 35-43, 46-53, 55 and 56 were pending in the present application prior to the above amendment, of which claims 31 and 43 are independent. Independent claims 31 and 43 have been amended to better recite the features of the present invention, and new dependent claims 59-70 have been added to recite additional protection to which the Applicant is entitled. Accordingly, claims 31, 32, 35-43, 46-53, 55, 56 and 59-70 are now pending in the present application, of which claims 31 and 43 are independent. For the reasons set forth in detail below, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Official Action rejects claims 31, 32, 35-43, 46-53, 55 and 56 as obvious based on the combination of Figure 30 of the present specification, which the Official Action refers to as "Applicant's Prior Art" (APA), and U.S. Patent No. 5,668,379 to Ono or JP 08-234212 to Hioki, either alone or in combination with U.S. Patent No. 5,821,159 to Ukita or U.S. Patent No. 6,215,077 to Utsumi. The Applicant respectfully submits that a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be maintained against the independent claims of the present application, as amended.

As stated in MPEP §§ 2142-2143.01, to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim

limitations. Obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either explicitly or implicitly in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. "The test for an implicit showing is what the combined teachings, knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art, and the nature of the problem to be solved as a whole would have suggested to those of ordinary skill in the art." In re Kotzab, 217 F.3d 1365, 1370, 55 USPQ2d 1313, 1317 (Fed. Cir. 2000). See also In re Fine, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988); In re Jones, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992).

The prior art, either alone or in combination, does not teach or suggest all the features of the independent claims, as amended. Independent claims 31 and 43 have been amended to recite an anisotropic conductive film over an insulating film and a connecting wiring, which is supported in the present specification, for example, by Figure 12A. Claims 31 and 43 already recite that both side edges of a portion of the connecting wiring are in contact with the insulating film. For the reasons provided below, Figure 30 and Ono or Hioki, either alone or in combination with Ukita or Utsumi, do not teach or suggest the above-referenced features of the present invention.

The Office Action asserts that the "adhesive 9 (resin)" described at page 3, line 7 corresponds with the insulating film of the present claims.

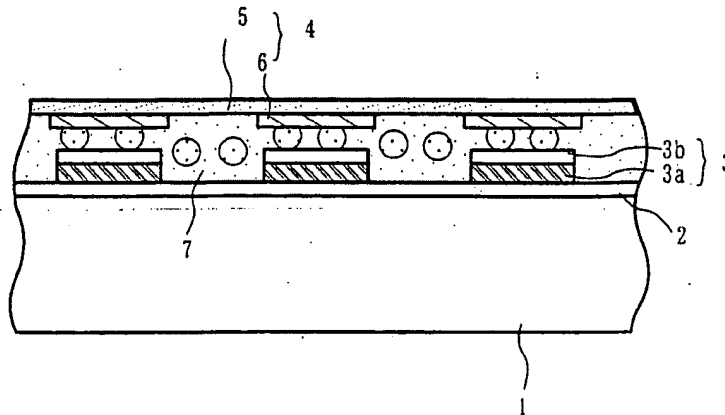


Fig. 30

However, the "Description of the Related Art" section of the present specification describes that "[in] an anisotropic conductive film 7, conductive spacers 8 are dispersed into an adhesive 9 (resin) that cures from heat or light" (page 3, lines 6-7). Thus, Figure 30 and the associated description in the specification appear to teach that an anisotropic conductive film 7 comprises conductive spacers 8 and adhesive 9. Even if one were to assert that the adhesive 9 (resin) shown in Figure 30 corresponds with an insulating film, Figure 30 does not teach or suggest that an anisotropic conductive film should be formed over the adhesive 9 (resin) and a connecting wiring.

Ono, Hioki, Ukita and Utsumi do not cure the deficiencies in Figure 30. Ono is relied upon to allegedly teach a thin film transistor with a taper shape (page 3, Paper No. 20060319) and various features of the dependent claims (pages 3-4, Id.), Hioki is relied upon to allegedly teach a column-shape spacer (page 6, Id.), Ukita is relied upon to allegedly teach a metallic film made of tungsten with a tungsten nitride layer formed thereon (page 4, Id.), and Utsumi is relied upon to allegedly teach a transparent conductive film comprising zinc oxide and indium oxide (page 5, Id.). However, Figure 30 and Ono or Hioki, either alone or in combination with Ukita or Utsumi do not teach or suggest an anisotropic conductive film over an insulating film and a connecting wiring or, particularly, that Figure 30 should be modified so that an anisotropic conductive film is formed over the adhesive 9 (resin) and a connecting wiring. Also, Figure 30 and Ono

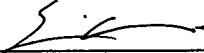
or Hioki, either alone or in combination with Ukita or Utsumi do not teach or suggest that both side edges of a portion of a connecting wiring are in contact with an insulating film in combination with an anisotropic conductive film over an insulating film and a connecting wiring.

Since Figure 30 and Ono or Hioki, either alone or in combination with Ukita or Utsumi do not teach or suggest all the claim limitations, a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be maintained. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are in order and respectfully requested.

New dependent claims 59-70 have been added to recite additional protection to which the Applicant is entitled. For the reasons stated above and already of record, the Applicant respectfully submits that new claims 59-70 are in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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